

Message Text

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EXDIS, FOR COVEY/PASSAGE/RODMAN FROM HILL AND AHERNE

E.O11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: MESSAGE TO ASIA FOUNDATION

REF: SECTO 20088

1. THERE MAY BE SOME CONFUSION ABOUT TOPIC WHICH CONFERENCE WILL ADDRESS. TOPIC IS INDEPENDENCE, REPEAT, INDEPENDENCE--NOT INTERDEPENDENCE. CONFERENCE SESSIONS HAVE TITLES SUCH AS "AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE--EXPECTATIONS AND RESULTS," "ASIAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENTS," AND "THE FUTURE OF INDEPENDENCE." DRAFT WHICH YOU HAVE (TOSEC 200131) IS AN ATTEMPT TO RELATE AMERICA'S BICENTENNIAL CONCERN WITH INDEPENDENCE TO CURRENT GLOBAL CONCERN WITH INTERDEPENDENCE. THIS COULD BE MADE MORE EXPLICIT BY REPLACING LAST SENTENCE OF PARA 3 WITH SENTENCE WHICH READS: "BUT THE QUESTION OF INDEPENDENCE HAS AS WELL, I BELIEVE, A DEEP AND ENDURING MEANING TODAY FOR ALL PEOPLES--EVEN AT A TIME WHEN THE MOST COMMON TOPIC OF DISCUSSION IS NOT INDEPENDENCE BUT INTERDEPENDENCE."

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2. IN ANY EVENT, FOLLOWING IS A NEW DRAFT OF MESSAGE ON THE SUBJECT OF INDEPENDENCE. WE WILL BE STANDING BY TO UNDERTAKE WHATEVER OTHER REDRAFTING YOU MAY WISH. CONFERENCE OPENS MONDAY, AUGUST 9, AT 2300 HOURS WASHINGTON TIME.

(MESSAGE COULD BE READ AT A LATER SESSION, BUT IDEALLY SHOULD BE AVAILABLE AT THE OUTSET.) BEGIN TEXT:

DR. WILLIAMS, DISTINGUISHED PARTICIPANTS, FRIENDS:

I AM PLEASED TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONVEY TO

YOU MY VERY BEST WISHES FOR THE SUCCESS OF YOUR CONFER-

ENCE--ESPECIALLY SINCE A NUMBER OF MY COLLEAGUES, FRIENDS

AND FORMER STUDENTS FROM MANY NATIONS OF ASIA HAVE COME TO

SAN FRANCISCO TO ADDRESS TOGETHER AN ISSUE WHICH IS AS

IMPORTANT TODAY AS IT WAS AT THE OUTSET OF THE MODERN

AGE--THE MEANING OF INDEPENDENCE.

IN EVERY QUARTER OF THE WORLD TODAY MEN AND WOMEN

STILL HOLD IN COMMON THAT DREAM OF SELF-DETERMINATION WHICH

LED TO THE CREATION OF AN INDEPENDENT UNITED STATES OF

AMERICA. IT IS AN IDEAL WHICH HAS LIFTED THE SPIRITS OF

MANKIND FOR TWO CENTURIES, AND WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO DO

SO FOR AS FAR AHEAD AS WE CAN SEE.

BUT THE QUESTION OF INDEPENDENCE IN OUR TIME--INDEED

IN THE LAST FEW YEARS--HAS TAKEN ON A NEW AND COMPLEX DI-

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MENSION. THERE IS NOW A NEARLY UNIVERSAL RECOGNITION THAT

DECISIONS--MILITARY, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL--TAKEN

FAR AWAY CAN HAVE AN IMMENSE AND INESCAPABLE IMPACT ON ALL

OUR LIVES IN WHATEVER NATION WE LIVE, INDEPENDENT OR NOT.

THUS WHILE WE SEEK TO CREATE OR TO CONSOLIDATE OUR NATIONAL
INDEPENDENCE, WE KNOW AS WELL THAT NONE OF US STANDS
ALONE--THAT WE ARE ALL PART OF A GREATER HUMAN COMMUNITY ON
A SHRINKING PLANET.
YET AS WE CONFRONT THIS NEW REALITY, ONE FACT REMAINS
CLEAR: INDEPENDENCE IS THE BEDROCK OF ALL WE HOPE TO
ACCOMPLISH IN THE WORLD. IT OFFERS OUR NATIONS, VARIED AS
THEY MAY BE IN HISTORY OR IN THEIR DESTINIES, THE ELEMENTS
NEEDED FOR JUST AND EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL CITIZENSHIP;
THE STRENGTH THAT PERMITS POSITIVE COOPERATION AMONG
SOVEREIGN EQUALS; THE CONFIDENCE TO UPHOLD THE FREEDOMS OF
THOUGHT AND ACTION SO NEEDED IF WE ARE TO SOLVE THE COMPLEX
PROBLEMS OF TOMORROW; AND THE IDEALS WHICH LEAD US TO REACH
OUT TO THOSE PEOPLES AND LANDS WHO STILL YEARN FOR LIBERTY
AND FOR A FAIR SHARE IN THE GLOBAL STRUCTURE OF RELATIONS.
AS ABRAHAM LINCOLN SAID, IT IS "THE GENIUS OF INDEPENDENCE"
WHICH CAN BEST ENSURE US AGAINST THE FORCES OF TYRRANY AND
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BEST PREPARE US TO WORK WITH EACH OTHER TO FURTHER THE
DREAM WE ALL SHARE FOR A BETTER WORLD FOR OUR CHILDREN. END
TEXT. HABIB

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